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**Written Testimony in opposition to Bill 5477  
An Act Concerning the Clean Water Act and Streamflow Regulations**

As a Board member of the Mianus Chapter of Trout Unlimited, I am writing today in opposition to House Bill 5477 – An Act Concerning the Clean Water Act and Streamflow Regulations.

Our chapter represents more than 500 members living in the towns of Greenwich, Stamford, Darien, New Canaan, Wilton, Norwalk, Ridgefield and Redding, and has been actively involved in working to preserve, protect and restore the coldwater habitat of our local rivers and streams.

Our Chapter's members are a dedicated group of conservationists passionate about Connecticut's water quality and ecology. Many thousands of hours of volunteer work has gone into our restoration projects, with great results.

**The ongoing Streamflow Standards and Regulations process must continue.**  
Earlier this year, Trout Unlimited members in Connecticut joined hundreds of others in contributing to the thorough planning and open and transparent proceedings surrounding the Proposed Streamflow Standards and Regulations (Streamflow Regulations) currently being created by the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection (DEP).

Over the past 5 years, the DEP has worked in coordination with other state agencies and the various stakeholders involved in the consumption and use of Connecticut's public water to draft these Streamflow Regulations. The draft regulations created by the DEP following this public and open process balance the needs of all water users in the state.

This regulation process was created following Public Act 05-142, which the General Assembly passed unanimously in 2005.

The proposed Streamflow Regulations ensure an adequate supply of water for drinking and other consumptive uses such as agriculture and industry, while also ensuring river flows remain adequate for recreational use and ecological health.

The 5 to 16 year implementation window included in the Streamflow Regulations provides more than adequate time for a comprehensive review of the state's watercourses. This decade-plus implementation period also provides more than adequate time for water users to submit appeals, or better yet, propose Individual Watershed Compacts to address the specific needs of individual watersheds.

**HB 5477 seeks to delay the Streamflow Regulations process.**

It is difficult to view HB 5477 as anything other than an attempt to delay and possibly nullify Public Act 05-142.

In particular, Section 2 of this bill seeks to circumvent the legislative and regulatory process already in place to develop Streamflow Regulations by the DEP.

Section 2 of HB 5477 would impose a new requirement for a study of all basins in the state and a new process for approval and adoption. The DEP's currently proposed Streamflow Regulations already accomplish this by including a basin classification system that is open, transparent and allows adequate time for public input.

The inclusion of Section 2 in this bill would only delay the process already in place and prohibit efforts already underway to ensure a balanced approach is taken to Connecticut's public water management that protects the rights of all users.

We are already more than a decade away from full implementation of a comprehensive set of Streamflow Regulations designed to protect the rights of all Connecticut water users as well as the environment. Passage of HB 5477 would only extend this delay, further threaten the ecological health of our state's rivers and streams and diminish their ability to continue to supply water users with the water they need for multiple purposes.

I ask that you reject HB 5477 and allow the comprehensive and thoughtful process developed in the proposed Streamflow Regulations to move forward.

Thank you for your consideration.

Jeff Yates